

***Remarks***

Except for minor amendments to correct typographical errors and to make proper reference to the sequence listing, in accordance with Applicants' Preliminary Amendment of April 14, 2000 in the parent application 09/449,631; and the addition of paragraph numbering, and the specification submitted herewith is identical to the original specification submitted as U.S. Appl. No. 09/449,6310, filed November 30, 2000, currently pending. These amendments introduce no new matter.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 50 to 97 are pending in the application, with 50, 75, 79, 83, and 89, being the independent claims. Claims 1 to 49 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 50 to 97 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Amendment to the specification is sought to enter reference to the priority applications. Hence, this amendment does not introduce new matter.

Support for new claims 50 to 97 is found, *inter alia*, at paragraphs 0002, 0008, 0020, 0029, 0054, 0077, 0109, 0111 to 0114, 0133, 0138; Examples 9, 11, 16, 29, and 30; and in the specification and claims as originally filed. Hence, no new matter is introduced.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. J. Del Buono", written over a horizontal line.

Brian J. Del Buono  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 42,473

Date: December 12, 2003

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600